

PARTNERSHIPS



2



PARTNERSHIPS

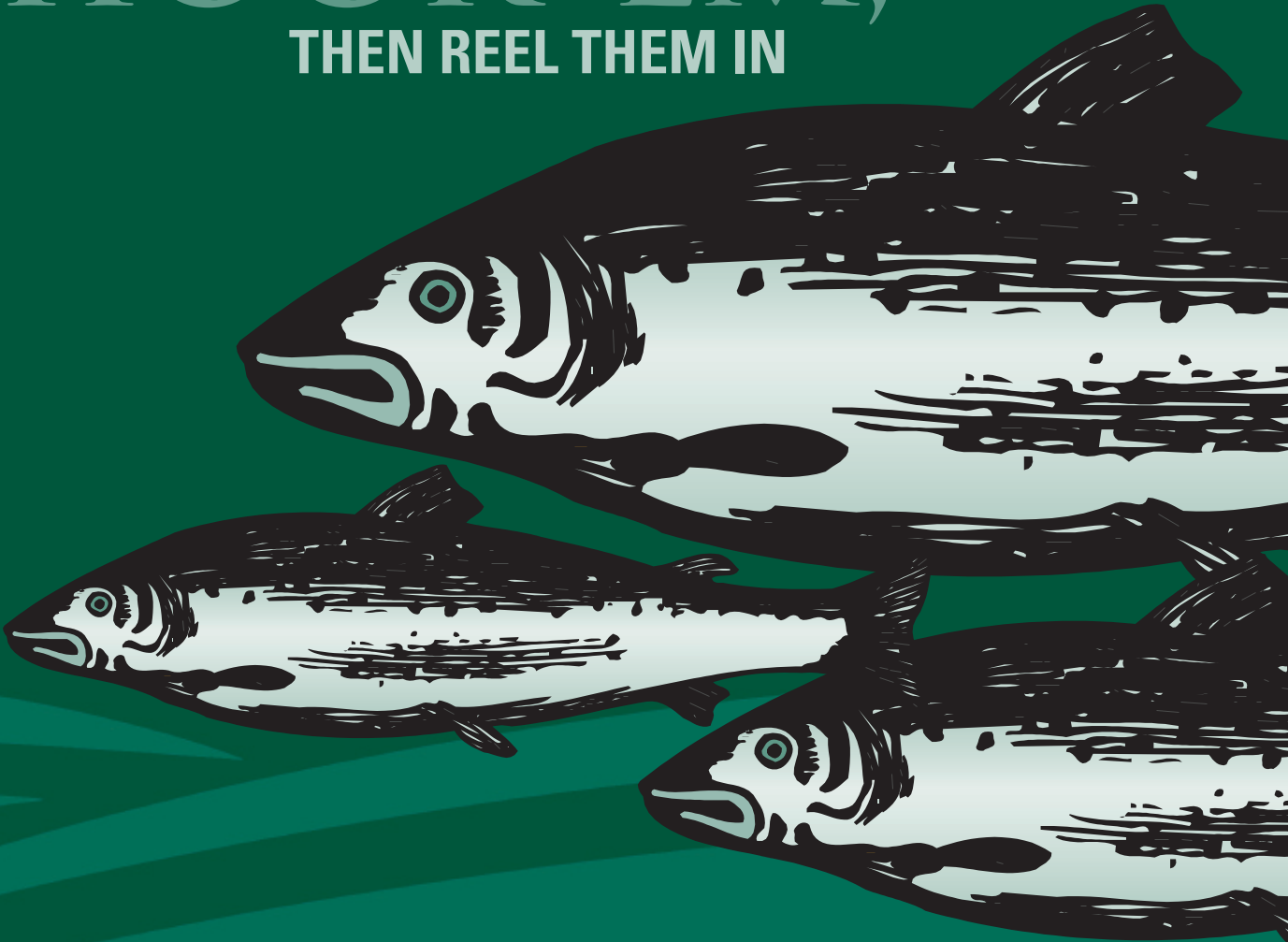


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PARTNERSHIPS

HOOK 'EM, THEN REEL THEM IN



DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING PARTNERSHIPS

How can an outreach partnership help me with my work?

Partners can help you by educating potential food stamp applicants about the benefits of their participation in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) and preparing them for the application process. This can make your work to determine the eligibility of applicants more efficient.

Here is what you will find in this section:



KEYS TO:

Partnership
Development

- ➔ Ten steps for establishing a partnership;
- ➔ Useful template materials that can be tailored for local needs; and
- ➔ Examples of partnership materials.

What if I have questions about outreach and partnerships?

Go to the Food Stamp Program web site at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach.htm. There you can find free materials such as posters, brochures, and flyers to order, as well as general information about outreach, outreach strategies, and promising practices.

Learn from your colleagues by joining the Food Stamp Outreach Coalition, a nationwide network of advocacy groups and partner organizations that works to promote the health and nutrition benefits of the Food Stamp Program. Formed in 2003, this core group of national food banks, community and faith-based groups, and service organizations works together to end hunger and improve nutrition.

For more information about the Coalition, please check out the web site at www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/outreach/coalition/about.htm. You will also find a listing of national partners that may have a local chapter with which you can collaborate.

What are the steps for developing and maintaining a partnership?

You can establish a partnership by following 10 simple steps. These steps may also be helpful if you are approached by a community organization seeking a partnership with you.



10 STEPS TO DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING A PARTNERSHIP

1 Find out your State and local policies

2 Assess your customer service

3 Select a target audience

4 Determine which partners will most effectively reach your target audience

5 Research and get prepared

6 Contact your prospective partner

7 Jointly establish your outreach plan

8 Confirm the partnership roles and responsibilities in writing

9 Stay in touch with your partner

10 Evaluate your partnership

STEP 1

FIND OUT YOUR STATE AND LOCAL POLICIES

As a State or local Government agency, there are some important things you must do before you approach partners with a proposal to work together:

- Always let people in your chain of command know of your plans.
- Be sure you have their approval to move forward with your partnership plans before you begin.

Research your State or local policies

In general, keep the following in mind as you think about your potential partnerships:

- Your State may have activities that are coordinated at the State level only.
- Your State may require approval before a local office can conduct certain types of activities.
- There may be paperwork to complete.
- Your State may already have contracts or grants with groups that could potentially be partners. Your activities must not interfere with the contract or grant.

Then make sure you understand the specific State and local policies and procedures on:

- Partnerships and the types of activities that partners can do
- Use of volunteers
- Posting of information on the Web sites of other organizations
- Working with media
- Working with businesses or retailers
- Provision of translation services
- Use of administrative funds to conduct outreach
- Contracting requirements



Does your State have an optional outreach plan?

Find out if your State has an optional plan for food stamp outreach. Such a plan may already involve grants or contracts to local organizations that you might consider as partners. Your potential partner may already have FSP funds to design, develop, and/or print materials or conduct outreach activities.

If your State doesn't already have a plan, you may want to explore this as a possible funding source for your partnership. If the partnership is funded through the optional State outreach plan, your State grant or contract rules, such as rules regarding sole source awards, competition, and monitoring, among other things, will apply.

STEP 2 | ASSESS YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE

Make sure there are no customer service barriers when potential customers contact your office. Take a look around your office and imagine how your customers might view it. Assess your service procedures to see if any changes might be needed as you implement your new outreach project. Consider the following:

- Does your office offer extended hours of operation?
- Is there a child care area in the waiting room?
- How long is your application form? What languages is it in? Is it easily available? Is there a person available to help the applicant fill out the form?
- Do you have a 24-hour drop-off box for applications and verification documents to make it easy for applicants to return information after normal business hours? The drop-off box also saves time, as an applicant does not need to wait to see a receptionist or eligibility worker.

STEP 3 | SELECT A TARGET AUDIENCE

Next, figure out what populations you want to reach through your partnership. National FSP data shows that the most hard-to-reach and underserved populations are seniors (age 60 and older), immigrants, and the working poor. But the target audience for your community may be different. For example, your community may have a large number of homeless individuals or unemployed people. You can:

- Talk to others in your office about which groups in your community tend to be underserved.
- Work with your State office to review State- or community-specific information on underserved populations.



STEP 4

DETERMINE WHICH PARTNER GROUPS WILL MOST EFFECTIVELY REACH YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

To decide whom to choose as partners, brainstorm and make a list of organizations that your target audience trusts and uses. Seek advice from others:

USING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are enthusiastic and eager to help. If your plans call for the use of volunteers, be sure you discuss these issues with your partner as well:

- How will you train volunteers to let them know what they can or can't do? For example, they can schedule appointments and fill out application forms, but they cannot certify households for food stamp benefits.
- How will you educate volunteers about the FSP?
- How will you handle volunteer turnover?
- How will you thank your volunteers?

- Ask staff in your office which organizations they work with on a regular basis.
- Take advantage of any advisory groups or county boards that work with your local agency to find out more about how best to reach the target group.
- Ask existing partners for input about other groups that should be involved in community outreach.
- Ask customers during the intake process for the names of groups with whom they come into contact and how they learned about the Food Stamp Program.

See page 28 for a list of potential partners.



STEP 5 | RESEARCH AND GET PREPARED

Increase your chances of success by being prepared before you contact your prospective partner.

RESEARCH

Take some time to learn as much as you can about your prospective partner. Make sure you understand the role the organization plays in the community and whom the organization serves. Following are some ways you can do this:

- Ask others in your office what they know about the prospective partner.
- Ask if anyone in your office has the name of a contact.
- Study the organization's web site.

GET PREPARED

Collect your ideas. Be prepared for questions your partner may ask. Be sure you can:

- Provide a brief overview of your organization.
- For community partners, promote the health and economic benefits of the Food Stamp Program. (See the "Introduction" section for a Food Stamp Program fact sheet.)
- Present the partnership as a "win-win" situation for all parties.
- Explain the role partners can play to assist potentially eligible people in accessing the Food Stamp Program. (See page 30 for a list of ideas.)
- Discuss the importance of the project and why a potential partner should work with you to help their customers learn about and apply for food stamp benefits.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Although local businesses have a genuine interest in helping out the needy in their community and will most likely have a formal community relations staff member, they also are driven by profit motivation and will have to think about their bottom line. If you plan to approach a local business or retailer about partnership, you may have to emphasize the economic arguments for participation expansion more than others. (See page 35) Be sure you can tell retailers how food stamp participation helps their business thrive. Be sure you can tell employers how participation in the Food Stamp Program will help their employees.

See end of this section for a list of activities for outreach partnerships.



STEP 6

CONTACT YOUR PROSPECTIVE PARTNER

As you approach potential partners, remember that enthusiasm goes a long way. But if a potential partner says “no” to your ideas, do not get discouraged. Your ideas might not fit into their schedule right now. There will be other partnership opportunities. Try the next organization on your list.



CALL

First, call the potential partner to start the ball rolling and gauge his or her interest. Here are some tips for making this initial call:

- **Practice** the talking points in advance. Do this regardless of whether you are talking to an acquaintance or someone you don’t know.
- **When speaking**, use a conversational tone.
- **Be respectful** of your contact’s time; ask if it is a good time for a conversation.
- **Offer to schedule** an appointment to conduct a meeting in person.
- **Invite** him or her to your offices for a tour and a brief overview of the food stamp application process.



WRITE

If you can’t reach your contact by phone, send an e-mail or letter. The following are some tips on composing your e-mail or letter:

- **Personalize and localize** the information as much as possible. Your partner will want to know why you selected his or her group and what role you will want it to play in the project. (See the sample partner letter on page at the end of this section.)
- **Keep the letter short** and to the point.
- **Proofread** your letter before sending it out.
- **Promise to follow up.** Don’t wait for a call. Post a reminder on your calendar and call back in a few days.



MEET

If you have scheduled a meeting with your partner, here are some helpful tips for a successful meeting:

- **Confirm the meeting** date, time, and equipment a day or two before the scheduled meeting.
- **Consider sending** your partner an agenda and some informational materials by e-mail or mail that he or she can review before the meeting.
- **Tailor your presentation** to your audience. Take along materials from this toolkit or your agency that are appropriate to your audience, and leave materials for the partner to review after the meeting.
- **Provide your partner with information** about the food stamp application process. If you are talking with a local food stamp office, discuss how your organization will submit the application forms. Clear procedures are needed to protect the date the application was filed.
- **Be clear about your role** in this project.
- **Be clear and direct** about how you would like your partner to be involved.
- **Be clear on funding.** If there is no funding available, be sure that is understood.
- **Bring your partnership ideas** to the table.
- **Listen to the ideas** your future partner has.
- **Look professional**, be on time, and be respectful of your partner’s time.



STEP 7 | JOINTLY DETERMINE YOUR OUTREACH PLAN

Once you and your partner have agreed to work together, take some time to jointly establish a plan for your outreach. Discuss your goals and what strategies or activities you will use to reach those goals.

Examples of outreach goals:

- Educate people about the nutrition benefits of the Food Stamp Program.
- Increase the number of applicants who fill out and file an application form for food stamp benefits at locations other than the food stamp office.
- Increase the number of individuals prescreened for food stamp benefits.
- Increase the number of callers to your toll-free number.
- Develop a local web site that will contain community resources or other information.
- Increase the number of hits to your web site.
- Promote the web site location containing the food stamp application form or prescreening tool, if applicable.
- Distribute application forms at locations such as food banks.
- Promote the EBT card to possible participants as a confidential way to receive benefits.
- Promote extended hours.

You will also want to discuss the following issues with your new partner:

- How many people do you want to reach?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of each partner?
- How will funding be handled?
- How will you evaluate your work?
- How will problems be resolved?

STEP 8 | CONFIRM PARTNERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN WRITING

Confirm your partnership arrangements in writing by sending a letter or e-mail to your new partner. If the partnership is straightforward, this document can be simple. Just list the details of the partnership. You may want to include a summary of the roles and responsibilities of each partner. For an example, go to the end of this section.



STEP 9 | STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR PARTNER

Once your partnership is established and outreach is underway, keep your partner informed and involved.

Here are some suggestions to help maintain your partnership:

- Update your partner on activities. Be sure to call or meet periodically to check in on how things are going.
- Send periodic thank you notes to the partner and volunteers. Let them know how many new people are getting the benefits of the FSP as a result of their efforts.
- Offer to include your partner in promotional activities like a newsletter or an event.



KEYS TO:

Establishing
and Maintaining
a Strong
Partnership

- ➔ **Present** the partnership as a “win-win” situation for all parties.
- ➔ **Agree** on goals and objectives.
- ➔ **Develop** clearly defined roles and responsibilities.
- ➔ **Practice** clear and frequent communications.
- ➔ **Show** appreciation through recognition.

STEP 10 | EVALUATE YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Although partnerships can be time-consuming, they can also be a valuable part of your work. It is important to track the value of these collaborations so that you can find out if you met your goals, and what did and didn't work. You can use either process measures, outcome measures, or both, depending on the nature of your partnership.

PARTNERSHIP PROCESS MEASURES

- Has the number of partnerships you have developed increased since you began your alliance-building program?
- When you established your partnerships, you began with a clear list of expectations. Are those expectations being met?
- Do staff who are working on the partnerships feel they are proceeding well? For example, if a partner is filling out application forms, are these forms filled out properly or must State or local staff redo them?
- Do your partners approach you with new and creative ideas for working together?
- Have your partners provided you with new information and expertise?



PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME MEASURES

- Have you seen an increase in calls to your local number?
- When clients call or come into your office, ask how they learned about the Food Stamp Program. If these individuals were a part of your project, are they better prepared (for instance, form filled out, verification documents in hand) for the certification interview?
- Maintain a referral tracking document. Assign a code (like color, label, number) for your partner(s) and place the code on applications that will be distributed by them. When those applications are submitted, you will be able to see where the applicant picked up the information and track the number of referrals from that particular relationship.
- Has your ability to reach the target audience improved? Have more people from the target audience called or come into your office as a result of a partnership?
- If you host an event, such as prescreening at a grocery store, keep track of the number of people in attendance and the number of applicants prescreened for food stamp benefits.
- If certification interviews are conducted, keep track of how many.
- If informational materials were distributed, keep track of what materials were used and how many were given out.
- Did your partners help generate media coverage that increased the awareness of food stamp benefits?

SHARE YOUR SUCCESS

Once you have been able to demonstrate success, do not forget to share it! By sharing your partnership successes, other organizations will clearly see the value and benefits of joining in the outreach effort. You can:

- Mention your current partners when you are at meetings and conferences.
- Write up your success and submit it on the Food Stamp Program's Promising Outreach Practices web page. (See the Promising Practices section of the toolkit for more information.)



POTENTIAL PARTNERS

OTHER STATE, COUNTY OR CITY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES	
(Tip: Do you have the same commissioner or director? If so, start with those groups.)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local health department Employment assistance offices, including one-stop career centers Schools Department of Motor Vehicles Property tax offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor or city or county officials Housing projects Corrections departments (for prisoners with imminent release) Local Social Security office Local military bases or installations Local or regional IRS offices
FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Churches Temples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mosques Synagogues
COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food banks and pantries Community action agencies Homeless shelters and soup kitchens Family support centers (e.g., day care, domestic violence shelters, literacy, utility assistance programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal Aid Salvation Army Goodwill Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) locations
BUSINESS AND LABOR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers Grocery stores Local unions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transit providers Utility companies
MEDICAL COMMUNITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctors Hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacies Community Health Centers
SENIORS' GROUPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assisted living facilities Area Agencies on Aging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AARP chapters Meals-on-Wheels program
IMMIGRANT GROUPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local consulates Clubes de Oriundos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant service organizations (e.g., the Michoacan Federation, Lao American Community Service)
MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio TV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspapers Internet



ACTIVITIES FOR POTENTIAL OUTREACH PARTNERSHIPS

Community groups/agencies/other organizations can:

- ☐ Conduct food stamp eligibility prescreening.
- ☐ Provide application assistance. Distribute food stamp application forms and help potential clients fill out the forms. Explain to potential applicants what types of information and documentation the local food stamp office will need to complete the application process.
- ☐ Provide translation services, when appropriate.
- ☐ Include information about the nutrition and health benefits of the Food Stamp Program in newsletters or other local outreach materials.
- ☐ Post posters or flyers in lobbies, waiting areas, employee break areas, health clinic checkout areas, nutrition education rooms, etc.
- ☐ Post information on their web site and link to Step 1, the FNS eligibility prescreening tool.
- ☐ Provide food stamp information or giveaways at community events such as health or county fairs.
- ☐ Host a "nutrition/health fair" to promote food stamp benefits.

Retailers/grocers can:

- ☐ Play PSAs on in-store public address audio or video systems.
- ☐ Include flyers and brochures in mailings and weekly circulars.
- ☐ Include food stamp benefit information on store receipts and in grocery bags.
- ☐ Print FSP information on grocery or produce bags. Make it lively—a grocery bag image containing the national toll-free number is available from USDA. (Graphic is included on CD-ROM in this toolkit.) Advertise food stamp information on grocery carts.
- ☐ Design, produce, and post promotional materials about food stamp benefits in the store — posters, banners, floor graphics, recipe cards, etc. (Logos for graphic design are included on the CD-ROM in this toolkit.)
- ☐ Provide food stamp information in the checkout display area.
- ☐ Underwrite paid advertising on local media.
- ☐ Underwrite printing of outreach materials.
- ☐ Host prescreening or certification interviews in the store.

more >



ACTIVITIES FOR POTENTIAL OUTREACH PARTNERSHIPS

Pharmacies can:

- ☐ Include FSP information on the patient information forms stapled to prescription drugs.
- ☐ Include contact information for the local food stamp office in circulars.
- ☐ Play PSAs on in-store public address audio or video systems.
- ☐ Advertise food stamp information on shopping carts.
- ☐ Post Food Stamp Program nutrition information on pharmacy Web sites.
- ☐ Sponsor health fairs where prescreening or certification interviews can take place.

Employers can:

- ☐ Include FSP information in new employee packets, newsletters, job training programs, etc.
- ☐ Put a notice about a local or national toll-free number on check stubs.
- ☐ Make periodic announcements about the FSP over the intercom system.
- ☐ Allow eligibility workers to prescreen or conduct food stamp certification interviews on-site.
- ☐ Post FSP information such as posters or flyers on bulletin boards or Web sites.

Transit companies can:

- ☐ Provide free advertising space on bus shelters, buses, and subways/light rail.
- ☐ Include flyers and brochures in mailings.

Utility companies can:

- ☐ Put food stamp benefits information in newsletters.
- ☐ Print information on utility bills.
- ☐ Enclose insert along with invoice.
- ☐ Allow organizations to give out informational materials or prescreen for food stamp benefits on site.



GET INVOLVED!

PARTNERS WITH A COMMON GOAL

Community and faith-based groups, retailers, and antihunger advocacy groups across the country have a common goal to reduce hunger and improve nutrition.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

By coming together in partnership, we can advance our efforts to inform individuals and families in our communities about the FSP, ensuring that everyone can eat right, even when money's tight.

RAISING AWARENESS

There are a number of ways you can help inform members of your community about the nutrition benefits of the Food Stamp Program.

WAYS TO INFORM MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY

- ☐ Order and hang free “Food Stamps Make America Stronger” posters or flyers on bulletin boards in offices, lobbies, or lunch/break rooms.
- ☐ Publish an article about the nutrition benefits of the Food Stamp Program in your employee or group newsletters and magazines.
- ☐ Provide free Food Stamp Program resources including USDA’s free trifold brochures and bookmarks (available in English and Spanish) for waiting rooms, health fairs, libraries, and community centers.
- ☐ Broadcast Food Stamp Program public service announcements (PSAs) at your store or company or use your contacts to get donated time at radio stations. PSAs can be downloaded from www.fns.usda.gov/cga/radio.htm.
- ☐ Insert free Food Stamp Program materials in grocery bags, informational packets, new employee materials, etc.
- ☐ Add a link to www.usda.gov/fsp from your web page.
- ☐ Include the Food Stamp Program toll-free number or web site (www.fns.usda.gov/fsp) on promotional pieces such as posters, flyers, milk or egg cartons, paper or plastic bags, store receipts, and in-store displays.
- ☐ Host a special food stamp prescreening event, cooking demonstration, or information fair.
- ☐ Include information about Step 1, the FSP’s online prescreening tool, in promotional pieces or make arrangements with employers or senior groups to allow individuals to use the prescreening tool to learn their possible eligibility for food stamp benefits.
- ☐ Volunteer at an activity to raise awareness about the Food Stamp Program (options could include helping at a food pantry or food bank, soup kitchen, or prescreening event).
- ☐ Subscribe to the Food Stamp Outreach Coalition listserv and learn about other outreach efforts taking place across the country. To join, send an e-mail to fsoc@fns.usda.gov.



PARTNER LETTER TEMPLATE

[DATE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION]

[ADDRESS]

[CITY], [STATE] [ZIP CODE]

How can I initiate a partnership? If a relationship is not currently in place, a good way to initiate a partnership is by sending a letter to a community relations, marketing, or communications contact. Your letter should outline your outreach effort, provide background information on your organization and the Food Stamp Program, and describe the nature of your partnership request. Following is a template letter that you can use.

Dear Mr./Ms. [NAME]:

The Food Stamp Program is the first line of defense against hunger. On behalf of [ORGANIZATION NAME], I am writing to invite you to lend your support to [STATE/CITY/TOWN'S] food stamp outreach effort by *[Describe the request — an activity you would like the organization to participate in, such as: hosting a health fair or prescreening event; volunteering; distributing informational flyers; promoting events; etc.].*

The goal of this outreach effort is to ensure that everyone who is eligible for the Food Stamp Program knows about the program and is able to access benefits.

[Provide local information on what your organization is doing, who you plan to target in your campaign, and the need in your community (number of potentially eligible individuals that are not being served for this type of effort).]

We hope you will join us in supporting our outreach efforts; we would be honored to work with you. With your support, we are confident that we can reach more of [CITY/STATE'S] individuals and families not yet enrolled in the Food Stamp Program. By participating, *[List benefits to organization such as: reinforces position as community leader; provides opportunity for positive media exposure; offers community service opportunities; etc.].*

I will contact you in the next few days to further discuss the vital role you can play in helping our community. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at [PHONE NUMBER] should you have any questions. I have also enclosed additional information on food stamp benefits for your review.

Again, we hope you can join us in supporting this important effort, and look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

Enclosures

**FIND THIS
TEMPLATE
on the
accompanying
disc!**



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT LETTER TEMPLATE

[DATE]

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION]

[ADDRESS]

[CITY], [STATE] [ZIP CODE]

*Highlighted are
some examples
of what you
might include
in this letter.*

Dear Mr./Ms. [NAME]:

Thank you so much for agreeing to partner with [NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] to help us reach those low-income individuals and families in our community who can benefit from the Food Stamp Program. Our partnership is part of a larger national effort to ensure that everyone who is eligible for food stamp benefits receives them.

Below is an outline of the partnership specifics we discussed:

In-Kind Donations

- Financial contribution for production of materials such as pamphlets, bus/subway ads, bus/subway shelter ads, pot holders, recipe cards, etc.
- In-store space to conduct nutrition events, prescreenings, etc.
- Placement of PSA or donated print advertisement space, etc.
- Personnel support to help fill out food stamp application forms, obtain verification documents, etc.

Promotional Opportunities

- Appearance of company name in food stamp media materials.

Visibility–Advertising, Media and Event Signage

- Your company's logo on food stamp signage and in outreach materials.
- Opportunity for a company representative to attend/participate at event(s).

We're so glad you see the value of partnering on such an important outreach effort. Please feel free to call me at [PHONE NUMBER] with any questions. Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE]

Within your community, there may be a host of potential partners interested in joining your effort to boost Food Stamp Program enrollment and inform people of the nutrition benefits of the program. Retailers, businesses, community-based organizations, and government entities can all play a vital role in food stamp outreach.

**FIND THIS
TEMPLATE
on the
accompanying
disc!**



10 IDEAS FOR RETAILER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM OUTREACH

Help your customers learn about the nutrition benefits of the Food Stamp Program. Food stamp benefits bring Federal funds into your community that can increase sales at your store. With food stamps, your low-income customers can purchase more healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables, whole-grain foods, and dairy products. As a retailer, you can:

1. DISPLAY food stamp posters, flyers, magnets, and other materials. Go to www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/info.htm for free USDA materials and promotional items.

2. INVITE local groups such as food banks, antihunger groups, or other community or faith-based groups to staff an information table to give out food stamp information or prescreen customers for eligibility.

3. PUT FOOD stamp information, such as national or local food stamp toll-free numbers, on grocery bags and in weekly circulars and bulletins.

4. PUBLISH food stamp materials in languages spoken in your community.

5. PRINT food stamp promotional messages on store receipts.

6. BROADCAST Food Stamp Program public service announcements in the store.

7. HOST nutritious food tastings or cooking demonstrations. Give out recipe cards that contain nutrition information and the national or local food stamp toll-free number.

8. FORM partnerships with local community and advocacy groups. Host a “health fair” to conduct food stamp eligibility prescreenings. Invite local media to the event.

9. PARTNER with EBT processors to educate cashiers about the benefits of the Food Stamp Program.

10. ENCOURAGE EBT processors to add recorded messages to help-desk numbers promoting the nutrition benefits of food stamps and encouraging food stamp clients to “tell a friend.”



FOOD STAMPS MAKE AMERICA STRONGER: THE BENEFITS OF THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (FSP)

The Program Helps Low-Income Families:



- **Stretch food dollars.** Those receiving food stamp benefits spend more money on food than other low-income households.
- **Fight obesity through education.** Nutrition educators teach food stamp participants the importance of a quality diet, how to prepare healthy foods, and how to make healthy choices.
- **Put food on the table for their children.** Food stamp benefits are an investment in our future. More than 50 percent of participants are children.
- **Keep elderly family members independent.** For the elderly, participation can help improve nutritional status and well-being and increase independence. Nine percent of participants are age 60 or older.
- **Make the transition to self-sufficiency.** The FSP helps participants become financially stable and provides needed support as they transition to self-sufficiency. Half of all new participants will leave the program within nine months.

The Program Helps States and Local Communities:



- **Support local food retailers.** The average monthly food stamp benefit per household (fiscal year 2004) is approximately \$200, which is spent in local grocery stores.
- **Generate economic activity.** Every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates \$9.20 in total community spending.
- **Support farms.** On average, \$1 billion of retail food demand by food stamp recipients generates 3,300 farm jobs.
- **Leverage Federal funds.** Food stamp benefits are Federal funds. By increasing the number of people in the FSP, communities can bring Federal money into their States and communities.

The Program Helps Businesses and Workers:



- **Achieve optimal performance.** Employees whose food needs are met at home may have higher productivity and take fewer sick days for themselves and their children.
- **Attain self-sufficiency.** Food stamp benefits supplement the food budgets of low-income workers so they can stay independent and work toward self-sufficiency.



SAMPLE FLYER: GREATER MIAMI PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN FRONT



A project of

Human Services Coalition
of Dade County, Inc.

Funded by

K John S. and James L.
Knight Foundation



JOIN THE GREATER MIAMI PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN. HELP OUR COMMUNITY PROSPER.

The Greater Miami Prosperity Campaign can bring millions of dollars into the local economy and add substantial income to thousands of entry-level working families in Miami Dade County. The Campaign consists of three "Economic Benefits Programs", with more to be added.

- **The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC),**
- **Florida KidCare**
- **Food Stamps**

Increase your employee's income at no cost to you. All you have to do is let your employees know about these programs. This is a **WIN for you as an employer**, because you can help your employees put more money in their pockets without any cost to you.

It is a **WIN for your EMPLOYEES**, because they can substantially increase their income. And it is a **WIN for our COMMUNITY**, because eligible low-income workers can bring hundreds of millions of federal dollars into Miami-Dade County's Economy.

The Human Services Coalition of Dade County has been awarded grants by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the US Department of Agriculture, State of Florida Department of Health and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to coordinate the Greater Miami Prosperity Campaign in partnership with the Mayors of Miami and Miami-Dade County; the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Miami Dade and The South Florida Workforce. The Internal Revenue Service, The Federal Reserve and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are also members of the task force that is coordinating the campaign.



SAMPLE FLYER: GREATER MIAMI PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN BACK

MIAMI-DADE MAYOR
ALEX PENELAS

"We want to make sure that low- and moderate-income taxpayers apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit and get all the end-of-the-year tax deductions and benefits they are entitled to. Greater tax returns will not only help those families but will also have a positive multiplier effect on the economy of Miami-Dade County."

MIAMI MAYOR
MANNY DIAZ

"This program will put a substantial amount of money into the hands of the people who need and deserve it the most: the people who work every day at modest wages to support their families. That's money that goes to buy groceries, clothing for their children, or to pay rent."

PETER W. ROULHAC,
CHAIR ELECT OF THE GREATER
MIAMI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, WACHOVIA
NATIONAL BANK, N.A.

"We want everybody in our community who is entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit to have it in their bank account where it belongs, not left on the table in Washington, D.C. The EITC is in the best interest of every business in the county, because the money will be recycled here when people use it to build a better future – by paying college tuition, buying a car to get to work or by putting a down payment on a home."

DANIELLA LEVINE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

"Miami-Dade County has an unacceptably high rate of poverty. In the 2000 Census, Miami was identified as the poorest large city in the United States. This is not a #1 position that any of us wants to have. Hard working people are finding it difficult to raise their families and meet basic needs. This is bad for families, bad for business and bad for our community."

The goal of the campaign is to build community prosperity and make a difference in the lives of low-income workers. The business community is taking the lead by spreading the word:

Florida KidCare provides free or low-cost health insurance for children living in low-income families. Families enroll by filling out a one-page application and mailing it to Tallahassee.

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit a refundable tax credit of up to \$4,140 per year for a family earning up to \$33,178. Families claim the EITC on their federal income tax return or through their payroll.

Food Stamps allows debit cards to be used for food purchases that supplement the earnings of entry-level workers.

The Human Services Coalition can help employees apply for each program and calculate the amount of benefits for which they qualify.

Employers who want to assist their employees in obtaining Economic Benefits Programs may contact us at (305) 576- 5001:

Joe Grimes (EITC) ext. 33

Christine Irwin (Florida KidCare) ext. 16

Loren Daniel (Food Stamps) ext. 30

Individuals interested in getting involved with the Greater Miami Prosperity Campaign with volunteer time or sponsorship assistance may contact us. The campaign needs and welcomes assistance in this effort to bring prosperity to the entire community.

WIN, WIN, WIN!



The Greater Miami Prosperity Campaign is a project of the Human Services Coalition, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

In partnership with:



Flyers produced thanks to Metro Miami Action Plan



SAMPLE MAILER INSERTS: PROJECT BREAD
ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Know someone struggling to put food on the table?

For information about food stamps and other free and low-cost food resources, call:

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Project Bread 
FoodSource Hotline
1-800-645-8333

The FoodSource Hotline is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

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Para español vea el reverso.

Para más información sobre cupones de alimentos y otros recursos
alimenticios tanto gratuitos como de bajo costo llame al

De lunes a viernes
Desde las 8 a.m. a las 5 p.m.

Project Bread 
FoodSource Hotline
1-800-645-8333

La línea directa y gratuita FoodSource es financiada por el Departamento de Asistencia Transitoria de Massachusetts

Sp/05

